

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 23 and 24 and amend the claims as shown below:

The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A print system comprising a print control apparatus and a plurality of print devices, wherein the print control apparatus and the plurality of print devices are connected with each other,

said print control apparatus comprising:

an acquiring unit configured to acquire in a print order, the print order including information indicating whether a same tint is to be used for color printing or monochrome printing and information designating a type of a print device for the color printing;

an assigning unit configured to assign a plurality of pages ordered by the print order to at least one print device of the designated type;

a first judging unit configured to judge whether or not the print order indicates- includes information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing or monochrome printing; and

a second judging unit configured to judge whether a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system; and

a selecting unit configured to select a single print device of the designated type, in case where the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the

information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, wherein the selecting unit does not select a single print device of the designated type if the first judging unit judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing even in case where the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and

wherein the assigning unit, in case where the first judging unit judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, assigns the plurality of pages of the color printing to the plurality of print devices of the designated type so that the plurality of pages are printed by the plurality of print devices in parallel, and

wherein the assigning unit, in case where the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing, assigns the plurality of pages to the selected single print device of the designated type so that all the plurality of pages are serially printed by the selected single print device, even if the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and

an assigning unit configured to distribute a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a plurality of print devices of the type designated in the print order so as to print the plurality print pages in parallel by the plurality of print device, when the

plurality of print devices in the type designated in the print order exist in the print system and said judging unit judges that the print order indicates monochrome printing, and to transmit a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a single color print device of a plurality of color print devices of the, designated in the print order so as to print the plurality of print pages by only the single color print device, when the plurality of color print devices in the type designated in the print order exist in the print system and said judging unit judges that the print order indicates color printing, and

each of said plurality of print devices comprising:

a print processing unit configured to perform print processing for any print pages ~~assigned distributed or transmitted~~ by said assigning unit of said print control apparatus.

18. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein the type of said print devices is designated in the print order in reference to a past print log.

19. (Currently amended) A print control apparatus which is connected with a plurality of print devices ~~with each other~~, comprising:

an acquiring unit configured to acquire in a print order, the print order including information indicating whether a same tint is to be used for color printing or monochrome printing and information designating a type of a print device for the color printing;

an assigning unit configured to assign a plurality of pages ordered by the print order to at least one print device of the designated type;

a first judging unit configured to judge whether or not the print order indicates includes information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing; or monochrome printing; and

a second judging unit configured to judge whether a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in a print system; and

a selecting unit configured to select a single print device of the designated type, in case where the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, wherein the selecting unit does not select a single print device of the designated type if the first judging unit judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing even in case where the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and

wherein the assigning unit, in case where the first judging unit judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, assigns the plurality of pages of the color printing to the plurality of print devices of the designated type so that the plurality of pages are printed by the plurality of print devices in parallel, and

wherein the assigning unit, in case where the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the

color printing, assigns the plurality of pages to the selected single print device of the designated type so that all the plurality of pages are serially printed by the selected single print device, even if the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system.

~~an assigning unit configured to distribute a plurality of print pages ordered by in the print order to a plurality of print devices of the type designated in the print order so as to print the plurality print pages in parallel by the plurality of print device, when a plurality of print devices in the type designated in the print order exist in the print system and said judging unit judges that the print order indicates monochrome printing, and to transmit a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a single color print device of a plurality of color print devices of the type designated in the print order so as to print the plurality of print pages by only the single color print device, when a plurality of color print devices in the type designated in the print order exist in the print system and said judging unit judges that the print order indicates color printing, wherein the print pages distributed or transmitted by said assigning unit are printed by each of said plurality of print devices.~~

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the type of said print devices is designated in the print order in reference to a past print log.

21. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a print control apparatus which is connected with a plurality of print devices ~~with each other~~, said method comprising the steps of:

an acquiring step of acquiring a print order, the print order including information indicating whether a same tint is to be used for color printing or monochrome printing and information designating a type of a print device for the color printing;

an assigning step of assigning a plurality of pages ordered by the print order to at least one print device of the designated type;

a first judging step of judging whether the print order indicates includes information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing or monochrome printing; and

a second judging step of judging whether a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in a print system; and

a selecting step of selecting a single print device of the designated type, in case where the first judging step judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, wherein the selecting step does not select a single print device of the designated type if the first judging step judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing even in case where the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and wherein the assigning step, in case where the first judging step judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, assigns the plurality of pages of the color

printing to the plurality of print devices of the designated type so that the plurality of pages are printed by the plurality of print devices in parallel, and

wherein the assigning step, in case where the first judging step judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing, assigns the plurality of pages to the selected single print device of the designated type so that all the plurality of pages are serially printed by the selected single print device, even if the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system.

distributing a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a plurality of print devices of the type designated in the print order so as to print the plurality print pages in parallel by the plurality of print device, when said print control apparatus is connected to a plurality of print devices in the type designated in the print order and it is judged in said judging step that the print order indicates monochrome printing, and to transmit a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a single color print device of a plurality of color print devices of the type designated in the print order so as to print the plurality of print pages by only the single color print device, when said print control apparatus is connected to a plurality of color print devices in the type designated in the print order and it is judged said judging step that the print order indicates color printing, wherein the print pages ordered by the print order are printed by each of said plurality of print devices.

22. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program causing a computer to execute a method of controlling a print control apparatus which is connected with a plurality of print devices ~~with each other~~, said program comprising ~~the steps of~~:

an acquiring step of acquiring a print order, the print order including information indicating ~~whether a same tint is to be used for color printing or monochrome printing~~ and information designating a type of a print device ~~for the color printing~~;

an assigning step of assigning a plurality of pages ordered by the print order to at least one print device of the designated type;

a first judging step of judging whether the print order ~~indicates includes~~ information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing ~~or monochrome printing~~; and

a second judging step of judging whether a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in a print system; and

a selecting step of selecting a single print device of the designated type, in case where the first judging step judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, wherein the selecting step does not select a single print device of the designated type if the first judging step judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing even in case where the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and



wherein the assigning step, in case where the first judging step judges that the print order does not include the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, assigns the plurality of pages of the color printing to the plurality of print devices of the designated type so that the plurality of pages are printed by the plurality of print devices in parallel, and

wherein the assigning step, in case where the first judging step judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing, assigns the plurality of pages to the selected single print device of the designated type so that all the plurality of pages are serially printed by the selected single print device, even if the second judging step judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system.

distributing a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a plurality of print devices of the type in the print order so as to print the plurality print pages in parallel by the plurality of print device, when said print control apparatus is connected to a plurality of print devices in the type designated in the print order and it is judged in said judging step that the print order indicates monochrome printing, and to transmit a plurality of print pages ordered by the print order to a single color print device of a plurality of color print devices of the type designated in the print order so as to print the plurality of print pages by only the single color print device, when said print control apparatus is connected to a plurality of color print devices in the type designated in the print order and it is judged

~~said judging step that the print order indicates color printing, wherein any print pages ordered by the print order are printed by each of said plurality of print devices.~~

23. (New) The print system according to claim 17, further comprising a third judging unit configured to judge whether the print order is color printing, and wherein the selecting unit selects the single print device of the designated type if the third judging unit judges that the print order is color printing as well as the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and wherein the assigning unit assigns the plurality of pages to the selected single print device of the designated type so that all the plurality of pages are serially printed by the selected single print device, if the third judging unit judges that the print order is color printing as well as the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing, even if the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising a third judging unit configured to judge whether the print order is color printing, and (S1508) wherein the selecting unit selects the single print device of the designated type if the third judging unit judges that the print order is color printing as well as the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same

tint is to be used for the color printing and the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system, and

wherein the assigning unit assigns the plurality of pages to the selected single print device of the designated type so that all the plurality of pages are serially printed by the selected single print device, if the third judging unit judges that the print order is color printing as well as the first judging unit judges that the print order includes the information indicating that the same tint is to be used for the color printing, even if the second judging unit judges that a plurality of print devices of the designated type exist in the print system.